

**Minutes of the 19th Steering Committee Meeting
of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia and
the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)**

Paris, Le Ponant, 19 November 2025

Slovenian delegation:

- **Ms. Tina Vuga**, head of the EU and international Cooperation Office, MHESI
- **Mag. Peter Volasko**, Science Division, Science and Innovation Directorate, MHESI
- **Ms. Petra Kodra**, EU and International Cooperation Office, MHESI

French delegation:

- **Ms Julie Oddou**, Director for European Affairs, CEA
- **Mr Alexandre Barret**, European Affairs Officer, CEA
- **Ms Barbora Rapantova**, European Affairs Officer, CEA (remote)
- **Ms Sarah Trudelle**, Scientific and academic officer, French Institute in Ljubljana (remote)

I. 19th Steering Committee Meeting

The 19th Steering Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Slovenia and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) took place on 19 November 2025 in Paris. This Steering Committee took place back-to-back with the visit of the Slovenian State Secretary Dr. Jure Gasparic in Cadarache on 18 November (visit of ITER, CEA/WEST and JHR).

Selection of projects for the period 2026-2027

In the joint call for projects for the period 2025-2026, the Slovenian side received 7 applications. The French side received 7 applications as well. The 7 joint project proposals were discussed for joint selection during the Steering Committee Meeting.

The Steering Committee approved 5 projects for funding. The projects were selected based on the evaluations of both sides. The projects granted are detailed in the table given in Annex. The projects will run for two years from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

The total funding by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency is up to 500.000 EUR for the period 2026-2027. In CEA, funding is provided by the own budget of the unit concerned for the total amount up to 500.000 EUR.

The results of the joint call will be published on both sides in the week of 8 to 12 December 2025.

Review of on-going projects in the period 2025-2026

A short review of the on-going projects had been made by MHESI and CEA during the Steering Committee, confirming that the ongoing projects (the ones awarded in 2024) were all well on track and that the projects awarded in 2023 were successful and expected to be completed by the end of December 2025.

Next call for proposals

The next call for the period 2027-2028 is planned to be published in February 2026 (the precise date will be decided by email in February 2025). The Steering Committee decided to put a limit of the maximum amount proposed by each project at 100.000 EUR for each side for the duration of the project.

Sides agreed to strive to support early-career stage project leaders (up to 5 years from their first PhD). Additionally, sides agreed to set young project leaders (up to 10 years from their first PhD) as a favourable element in the final project selection process done by the Steering Committee.

For the next call for proposals, sides also agreed to avoid overlapping of project funding for projects, submitted by same partners with similar topic and selected in the last call.

The next meeting should take place in Slovenia in November 2026. MHESI will take the initiative to propose the dates to CEA. The status of current projects will be reviewed and the projects for the period 2027-2028 will be selected during that meeting.

General information from both sides

After having informed each other about their latest developments of the past year, side exchanged views on the need to support the development of Research and Technological Infrastructures in the next multi annual framework programme and especially in the 10th Framework Programme for R&I and the European Competitiveness Fund.

The Steering Committee have agreed to jointly celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the CEA-MHESI agreement (date and place still to be confirmed).

Ms Tina Vuga

Head of the EU and international Cooperation Office,
Ministry of Higher Education, Science
and Innovation (MHESI)

Ms Julie Oddou

Managing Director for European Affairs
CEA



Annex

Title of the projects	CEA Project Investigator	CEA Research Institute	Slovenian Project Investigator	Slovenian Research Institut	CEA budget requested	Slovenian budgets requested
Optimisation of the Hydrothermal Liquefaction Pathway for Biofuel Production from Microalgae	Delrue Florian	CEA/DRT/CTREG/DS UD	Filipa A. Andre Vicente	National Institute of Chemistry	100 000,00 €	100 000,00 €
Experimental and theoretical assessment of the $^{117}\text{Sn}(n,n')^{117m}\text{Sn}$ reaction for epithermal neutron dosimetry	Kieran Kessaci Gilles Noguere	CEA/DES	Vladimir Radulović	Joseph Stefan Institute	84 000,00 €	100 000,00 €
Mesosopic models for AnO_2 colloidal nanoparticles surfaces, based on quantum DFT and experiments	Dufreche Jean-Francois	CES/DES/Institut de Chimie Separative de Marcoule ICSM	Klemen Bohinc	Univerty of Ljubljana	50 000,00 €	90 000,00 €
Conductive Metal–Organic Frameworks for Electrocatalytic Applications	FRANCOIS Mélanie	Institut Rayonnement-Matière de Saclay, CEA/DRF/IRAMIS	Saim Mustafa Emin	Univerza v Novi Gorici	40 361,00 €	100 000,00 €
OPTI-BENCH: OPTical fibre Temperature Instrumentation for Benchmark Experiments in TRIGA Reactor	Olivier Llido	CEA, DES/IRESNE/SPESI/LDCI (Laboratoire de Dosimétrie, Capteurs et Instrumentation)	Anže Pungerčič	Joseph Stefan Institute	110 000,00 €	100 000,00 €